

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In accordance with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office practice, proposed drawing changes as REPLACEMENT SHEETS are attached, wherein Applicant proposes to amend the drawings in the above-identified application as follows:

Please amend Figure 1 by including the legend -- BACKGROUND ART --.

Please amend Figure 2 by including the legend -- BACKGROUND ART --.

No new matter has been added. Approval is earnestly requested.

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action dated February 27, 2009.

Claims 1-4 and 6 are currently pending in this application, with claim 1 being independent. *No new matter has been added.*

Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawing objection

While not conceding the propriety of the objections to the drawings, and in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, the drawings have been amended in the manner requested.

Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4 and 6 - Claims 2-4 and 6 are dependent upon claim 1. Appreciation is expressed for the indication on page 7 of the Office Action that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, while not conceding the propriety of this rejection and in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, the features of claim 5 have been wholly incorporated into claim 1.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 - While not conceding the propriety of this rejection and in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, claim 7 has been canceled.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Official Notice

There is no concession as to the veracity of Official Notice, if taken in any Office Action.

An affidavit or document should be provided in support of any Official Notice taken. 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2), MPEP § 2144.03. See also, *Ex parte Natale*, 11 USPQ2d 1222, 1227-1228 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1989)(failure to provide any objective evidence to support the challenged use of Official Notice constitutes clear and reversible error).

Extensions of time

Please treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or all required extension of time fees.

Fees-general authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm).

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

Conclusion

This response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action.

Applicants reserve the right to set forth further arguments supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance.

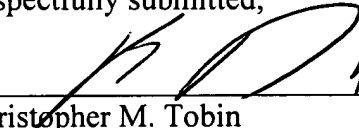
Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

Dated: July 22, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By


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Attachments